

GOSSIP OF WALL STREET.

Stocks Dull and Irregular.

Stocks slumped away raggedly yesterday in rather a thin market, which blew first hot and then cold and made no great strides in any direction. The Jewish holiday tended to keep down the attendance on the floor of the Exchange and in brokerage offices, and trading was exceptionally light, the total turnover amounting to but \$48,700,000 shares. Stocks were moderately strong on the opening and at midday, but when the orders which came in at those periods had been executed and some of the first calls to sell their stock and to turn over bearish, an attack on the steep stocks signaling their attitude. Several factors were against any sort of strong advance. One of them was a decline in foreign exchange, probably in sympathy with the strained labor situation abroad. Another was the fact that tax payments are to be made on Wednesday and may bring about a strain in the call money market. On the other hand, there were some bright spots. It was reported in the Street that between \$8,000,000 and \$10,000,000 had been put out the latter part of last week on time at 8½ to 9 per cent. Still another favorable factor was the general feeling that the new Maine bond issue would sweep Maine to-day and thus give Wall Street an excuse to start discounting November results.

Without an exception all European exchanges broke yesterday to new lows for the present downward trend, sterling selling to as low as \$3.45, francs to as low as 6.44 cents, Belgian franc down to 6.53 cents, Swiss francs to as low as 16.13 cents and Italian lira to as low as 4.23 cents. Other declines were in proportion. The market closed at the day's low. There had been frequent predictions that sterling would get below \$3.50 as a result of the constantly increasing offerings of cotton and grain bills. With the aid of a troublesome labor situation in England and Italy, the predictions were close to the mark.

How far the market will decline depends in large measure on the size of supplies of cotton and grain bills, as well as on the outcome of the uncertain labor conditions. Some extravagant offers made yesterday were that sterling would break below the \$3.18, the low mark for all time. Experts believe, however, that the sterling market will be subject to wide fluctuations, but that it will not drop below \$2.25 on speculative operations, such a market course is not generally anticipated.

The surprising development of yesterday was the complete absence of speculation on the part of the market aloof, awaiting further developments in the labor situation. Another factor in the market was the depreciation of the dollar in terms of European exchange, may have been purchases of dollars by the French government in order to create the funds necessary to retire France's share of the Anglo-French loan. It was estimated that France had bought \$100,000,000 of dollars. That amount taken with the proceeds of the \$100,000,000 loan and the respective shipment of \$50,000,000 of gold would enable the French government to buy additional exchange to the amount of \$60,000,000 before October 15. She may have expected to buy the balance of European exchange have further depreciated in terms of the dollar. To meet the balance France must buy exchange of \$100,000,000 of dollars. To buy, the level exchange will be required.

Employees Get Bonus.

Santa Claus made a special trip to Wall Street, or at least that portion of the Street in which are the offices of W. W. Cohen & Co. Instead of waiting until the end of the year to share its profit in the form of a bonus to its employees Cohen & Co. distributed among its staff a portion of the profit ~~now~~ it had made in the first six months of the year. As that period had been one of the most prosperous for a corresponding time in the history of the house the bonus to its employees, male and female, was equivalent to about 20 per cent. of their annual pay.

	1920	1919	1918.
	152,948,283.7	149,898,898	152,854,566
	Open- ing	High- est	Low- est
	Close- ing	Low- est	Close- ing
			Change
W.	42 1/2	53 1/2	23 1/2
R.	47	47	46 1/2
20 1/2	20 1/2	20 1/2	1/2
13 1/2	13 1/2	13 1/2	1/2
44	44	44	1/2
135	135	135	1/2
103	103	103	1/2
43	43	43	1/2
21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	1/2
8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	1/2
18	18	18	1/2
14 1/2	14 1/2	14 1/2	1/2
39 1/2	39 1/2	39 1/2	1/2

pi.	47	26	26	26
Chem.	47	26	26	26
and ex div	81	81	81	81
Suit.	81	81	81	81
Suit.	32	32	32	32
Suit.	82	82	82	82
Stamp	58	58	58	58
Stamp	75	75	75	75
er.	11	11	11	11
er.	49	49	49	49
and Mex	73	73	73	73
al.	23	23	23	23
H.	33	33	33	33
Co.	94	94	94	94
Ref.	43	43	43	43
Ref.	26	26	26	26

ant	39%	25	42	42	
ant	45	61	80	45	
T.B.	33%	84%	82%	80%	+ 1
ant	33%	84%	82%	82%	
ant	42%	71%	82%	82%	
cel	21%	21%	20%	42%	10
ant	38	38	38	38	10
ant	36	36	36	36	10
ant	36	36	36	36	10
Pa	65	65	65	65	10
Va	81	81	81	81	10
ant	65	65	65	65	10
ant	74	74	74	74	10
ant	10	39	39	39	10
ant	78	78	78	78	10
ant	38	38	38	38	10
ant	13	13	13	13	10
ant	91%	82%	15%	91%	10
ant	18%	18%	18%	18%	10
ant	28%	28%	28%	28%	10
ant	28%	28%	28%	28%	10

Y.	8%	82%	79%	172%	1
Y.	16%	16%	16%	16%	
Tran.	26%	26%	26%	26%	++
Water.	33%	33%	33%	33%	++
Trading.	15%	15%	15%	15%	+
33	83	55	63		
64	55	30%	30%		
59	70	81	68%		
94	94%	93%	94%		
J.	652	662	662		
J pf.	105%	105%	105%		
105	105	105	105		
72	72	72	72		
62	62	61%	61%		
52	52	52	52		
8%	8%	9%	9%		
39%	39%	39%	39%		
36%	36%	36%	36%		
11	11	10	10		
64	64	64	64		
18%	13%	13%	13%		
46	46	46	46		
Oil.	39%	39%	39%		
36%	36%	36%	36%		
11	11	10	10		
64	64	64	64		
18%	13%	13%	13%		
46	46	46	46		
Oil.	39%	39%	39%		
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46	46	46	46		
Oil.	39%	39%	39%		
36%	36%	36%	36%		
11	11	10	10		
64	64	64	64		
18%	13%	13%	13%		
46	46	46	46		
Oil.	39%	39%	39%		
36%					

20	283	28	29	1	3
120	121	120	120	1	3
pany	204	203	204	1	3
11	11	11	11	1	3
ment	67	67	67	1	3
ren	40	40	40	1	3
corp.	82	83	85	1	3
86	86	85	85	1	3
107	107	107	107	1	3
88	88	89	88	1	3
106	106	105	106	1	3
67	67	68	67	1	3
116	116	116	116	1	3
94	94	94	94	1	3
27	27	27	27	1	3
16	16	16	16	1	3
29	29	29	29	1	3
48	48	48	48	1	3

Price	12 1/2	12 1/2	12	12		
of	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	1/2	
	46	46	45 1/4	45 1/4	—	1/4
	15 1/2	15 1/2	15	15	—	1/4
	55 3/4	55 3/4	55 3/4	55 3/4	—	1/4
	108	108	108	108	+	3/8

t recorded in separate line unless sales full lot range.

Steel and Copper.

From his averages one student of the market has formed the opinion that the copper have discounted the slowing up of their business, steel prices have not. They passed their peak and current selling of the steel shares probably reflects the change in the steel industry. "The average price of steel stocks in 1919 reached their high level during the 1919 bull market in July, 1919, when they registered a price of 46.48," says this statistician. "From this point they declined to a low of 22.22 in 1920. From 45 per cent. The average price of ten steel stocks did not reach its high point until three months after the copper had reached their top, and since then there has been a decline in the steel stocks. From the following figures are even more significant: Electrolytic copper to-day at 19 cents is down from 23½ cents this time last year, or 19 per cent., while pig iron and steel bills are up from \$30.50 to \$53.51 and \$35.40 to \$60, respectively. These advances amount to 77 and 57 per cent."

The Bank Statement.

Certain Wall Street interests took glance yesterday at the reserve ratios of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, showing a gain compared with those of the last preceding week, and they pronounced the statement "good," who had predicted that the statement would be "unfavorable." Were the reserve ratios the only matters to be taken into consideration the funmakers might be content with the statement. But it can be repeated that the Reserve Bank statement was artificially improved for the moment by a new method of borrowing. The new method consisted in the redistribution of certificates of indebtedness, which mature to-morrow, was exactly equivalent to redemptions or loans from other reserve banks, with the exception that the liability was shifted to the liability on the part of the borrower. Were the redistribution of certificates of indebtedness shown on the Reserve Bank statement, as they should have been, for the purpose of showing the balance from other reserve banks, the total of such borrowings would have approximated \$80,000,000, the highest figure yet

in connection with the maturing and with the new issues of certificates is completed, the position of the local reserve bank will be shown in its true light. In the meantime it may be submitted that the local Reserve Bank statement was not as favorable as superficial observers would have one believe. In other words, the local Reserve Bank exhibited real desire to aid sentiment regarding credit conditions.

Chemical Merger Listed in Hurry.


The listing committees of the New York Stock Exchange took an unusual step yesterday in listing the stock of a major corporation, one which even stockholders in the vicinity have not heard of. It is the Chemical Dye Corporation 7 per cent. cumulative preferred and common, without par value. The company, which was organized in 1906, last morning and admitted the security to listing on a "when issued" basis. In the meanwhile, trading in the issue had started in the curb market, and it was several minutes after that trading had begun be-

When issued stock had been admitted to the big board. Curb officials announced promptly that all contracts were annulled automatically by the listing of the stock on this exchange. The new French 8s were listed the same time, but are an entirely different case, as they are ready for distribution. Wall Street wondered yesterday just what was the cause of the hurry to get the Chemical merger on the big board.

National Cloak and Suit.

Considerable interest attends to-day's meeting of the directors of the National Cloak and Suit Co., because the quarterly dividend of 1 1/4 per cent. question will come up for discussion. The recent action of the stock, in a decline from 15 to the low of 30 1/4, touched the directors to the point that they will pay the 5 per cent. rate, but the report has been paid since 1917, will not be maintained. When the company announced an issue of \$5,000,000 of ten-year 5 per cent. convertible sinking fund gold notes in August it was stated that the company would declare no dividend on the

shares at any time when net current assets are not at least 150 per cent. of the aggregate principal amount of the notes. The net current assets, based on the balance sheet of December 31, 1919, after including proceeds of the \$5,000,000 note issue, but not taking into account expenditures on fixed charges of approximately \$1,000,000 from January 1 to July 28, amounted to \$2,158,453 and net total tangible assets to \$14,898,866.


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